THE

ORDEAL.

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POLITICAL.

'If the British government has nothing more in view than it is willing to avow, it cannot refuse to concur in an arrangement rescinding on her part the Orders in Council; and on ours the embargo. If France does *not* concur, the Orders will be better enforced by the continuance of the embargo against her, than they are by the British fleet and cruizers, and in the mean time, all the benefits of our trade will be thrown into the lap of Great-Britain.—[*Letter from Mr. Madison to Mr. Pinckney, dated January* 18, 1808.]

'The prosperity of America is essential to the prosperity of Great-Britain. When those adjustments shall take place to which, though unfortunately not practicable at this moment, nor under the conditions prescribed by Mr. Pinckney, the undersigned confidently looks forward; it will perhaps be no insecure pledge for the continuance of the good understanding between the two countries, that they have learnt duly to appreciate each other's friendship; and that it will not hereafter be imputed to Great-Britain either on the one hand that she envies American industry as prejudicial to British commerce, or on the other, that she is *compelled* to court an intercourse with America as absolutely necessary to her own existence.—[*Letter from Mr. Canning to Mr. Pinckney, dated September* 23, 1808.

FALSEHOODS.

'It was by the exertions of our government, and by President Jefferson's EMBARGO that our difficulties with England were settled, and not by the rebellious conduct of the tories. Had there been no tories, no Englishmen in our country, the business would have been settled many months ago. To the jacobinical opposition to government, and their violations of the Embargo, must be attributed the delays which have taken place.'

Chronicle, May 1.

'With peculiar pleasure does every free, candid, and enlightened American perceive that the policy of President Jefferson has saved the United States from the horrors and calamities of war. His measure of the *Embargo* has had the effect intended. It has obliged the British government to recede from the unjust ground it had taken; and to repeal the orders against American commerce. Had it not been for the ravings of an insurgent faction; the British would have given up the point twelve months ago.'

Chronicle, May 1.

Such unblushing assertions confront us in every column of the Chronicle; they contain every argument of the democratick party. The points they endeavour to establish are these:

1st. That the Embargo has coerced Great-Britain so severely, that she has been obliged to concede 'the Orders in Council,' in obedience to our demands.

2d. The opposition of the Federalists has occasioned all the delay which government has experienced; and but for them 'the business would have been settled many months ago.'

Leaving out all attempt at confuting the minor scurrility of this vehicle of slander, such as the epithets of 'tories,' 'jacobinical opposition,' 'rebellious conduct,' 'ravings of an insurgent faction,' which may have great weight with the Chronicle scribblers in the way of argument, we shall confine ourselves to the consideration of the two points we have ſtated, and by a reference to official documents and common sense, we imagine we shall be able to establish the falsehood of the assertions so universally circulated in favour of Mr. Jefferson, and in hostility to the Federalists.

It is manifest that the first enquiry to be made upon the subject under consideration is, what has Great-Britain conceded to us, by agreeing to relinquish the Orders in council, provided we shall repeal the non-intercourse act in her favour? For if it appear that she has not yielded any thing to us, and if it appear that she has gained a great deal by this arrangement, it will not be contended that the embargo has had any material effect in respect to coercion. By enquiring what were the motives which induced Great-Britain to adopt the measure of the Orders in Council, we may be able to discover what she now yields by not enforcing them any longer. In pursuing this enquiry, we naturally revert back to the ſtate of things immediately previous to the Embargo measure, and the promulgation of the Orders. We find the distresses of the West Indian colonies had reduced the planter to the last state of desperation; and the irritation of those in the West-Indian interests against the American trade from the French colonies to France, had been evinced in numerous pamphlets, requiring the ministry to adopt the measure under consideration. These complaints at length became so clamorous and loud, that many committees were appointed by the House of Commons upon the subject; and the last report of the committee of that body, 'On the commercial state of the West-India Iſlands,' has been made publick. It was published about a month previous to the date of the Orders in Council of Nov. 11, 1807, and it appears very clearly that the recommendations of this committee had a very powerful influence in inducing the ministry to adopt the policy contained in those Orders. This will be made apparent by a reference to the report of the committee itself.

After enumerating the evils sustained by the West-Indian Planter, in the cultivation of his estates, and proving from the most authentick evidence, that the proceeds of the produce would not pay the cost of cultivation, the committee proceed to assert that 'the result of all their enquiries on this most important part of the subject, have brought before their eyes, *one grand and primary evil*, from which all the others are easily to be deduced; namely, the *facility of intercourse between the hostile colonies and Europe, under the American neutral flag*, by means of which not only the whole of their produce is carried to a market, but at charges little exceeding those of peace; while the British planter is burthened with all the inconvenience, risk, and expense resulting from a state of war.' It states the imports from the United States into Amsterdam alone, in the year 1806, to have been 34,085 hhds. sugar, and that the charges on the articles through the United States of America, from the hostile colonies, were less by 11s. 8d. per cwt. than those charges on British sugar to the same port.' The committee then observe, that 'in order to counterbalance in some degree the disadvantages thus enjoyed by the hostile colonies to the detriment of the British planter, it has been recommended, *that a blockade of the ports of the enemies settlements* should be resorted to; but,' they continue, 'a measure of *more permanent* and certain advantage, would be *the enforcement of those restrictions on the trade between neutrals and the enemies colonies*, which were formerly maintained by Great-Britain, and from the relaxation of which the enemies colonies obtain indirectly during war, all the advantages of peace. It appears to your committee to be a matter of evident and imperious necessity to resort to such a system, as by impeding and restricting, and as far as possible preventing the export of the produce of the enemies colonies from the places of its growth, *shall compel the continent* to have recourse to the only source of supply which in that event would be open to it.'

Without intending to enter into a justification of the principles or policy conveyed by these recommendations, we mean to assert that they held out the greatest inducement which operated on the British government ultimately to adopt the measure. The motives therefore, which prevailed upon Great-Britain to pursue this kind of restrictive policy, no matter how unjust it might be, were evidently to restrain the American trade in the colonial produce of her enemies and thereby relieve her own subjects from a pressure of distress, unequalled in the annals of her colonies. The consequences were, that after the orders in council were issued, sugar and coffee began to rise in England, the demand on the continent was imperious for those articles, and great quantities were conveyed over to Holland in a clandestine manner. So that long before the Report of the committee of the House of Commons in respect to the distillation of that article instead of grain had appeared, sugar experienced an augmentation in price of at least 19s. per cwt. This rise,

if it operate only on half the quantity imported into Great-Britain, would amount to 6,370,000 dollars. The cost of the *American* supplies in the cultivation of sugar does not amount to but about one seventh of the whole charge. Thus, 'the sums paid on seven sugar estates in Jamaica, for American supplies in 1806, during that and the three preceding years, amount to a total of 8797, and the whole expences of the same estates during that period amounted to 62,570 dollars.' The greatest effect of the embargo, therefore, upon the West Indies would be to deprive them of one seventh part of their whole supplies, which of course they would be obliged to resort to other countries to obtain.

The Orders in Council, however, were adopted under the firmest conviction that our government would pass a non-intercourse or embargo law, and under a full persuasion of the greatest difficulties they would be obliged to encounter, from its most rigorous operation. This will very clearly appear from the examination of many gentlemen engaged in the West-Indian traffick before the committee of the House of Commons; and it will also be rendered very apparent by the following extract from the report of the committee just mentioned:

'As it may be apprehended that from the adoption of such measures, difficulties might arise in that intercourse from which the West Indies at present derive a considerable proportion of the sum of their supplies, your committee have thought it their duty to make enquiry into the resources in that respect, *to which recourse might be had in such an event*. During the only period which affords an example of the suspension of that intercourse, the evidence concurs as to the fact of a supply having been obtained (though not without temporary and casual inconveniencies) from a variety of sources which may reasonably be relied upon in case of such necessity at the present moment to a greater amount than at the former period.' They then remark that although the American supplies are important to the West Indies, yet that the trade 'is not essential to their existence, or equivalent to the disadvantages of their situation in these respects, which your committee have gone through in the present statement.'

The Milan decree of 17 Dec. 1807, by Napoleon, soon followed the Orders in Council, by which all neutral vessels which may have been searched by an English ship, are declared to become English property, and of course good prize. A rigorous blockade of the French colonies was established soon after; and our embargo measure was adopted about the same time. In our enquiries therefore as to what Great-Britain has yielded to us, we cannot but remark that those reasons which we have been able to discover, which induced her to adopt the Orders in Council, are exactly as strong in favour of the present state of things. The American commerce is just as much restrained now as it was under their operation, the English West Indian colo-

nies are more effectually relieved, as they now freely obtain our supplies, which will contribute to diminish the cost of their sugar; whilst the manufacturer at home will enjoy all the custom of which he was deprived by the embargo. The blockade of the French colonies and the Milan Decree render the Orders in Council a dead letter; they had no real effect in restraining neutral commerce, and had only an obnoxious one in point of principle. By relinquishing them as soon as the tenor of our non-intercourse law afforded them a fair opportunity, the British ministry have not only lost nothing, but have secured to themselves many benefits. In reality Mr. Canning has played a very subtle game; for under the present aspect of affairs, 'he secures all the advantages which the most rigid adherence to the Orders in Council, would have produced; the colonial trade of his enemy, by means of the neutral is stopped, the neutral commerce is sufficiently restrained by Napoleon himself, and he receives therefore the whole odium which the restraint excites. Whilst Great-Britain, in addition to the other real and comparative advantages we have mentioned, will enjoy all the benefits of our trade, which a state of affairs, the most unrestricted, could confer. Beside all this, the reparation she has made for the national aggression, in the Chesapeak attack, has produced a favourable impression on the minds of the American people, whilst France is placed by the non-intercourse law, in precisely a similar situation to that of Great-Britain, before that reparation was accepted.

The question which we proposed to discuss, whether the embargo had obliged Great-Britain to concede the Orders in Council, in our favour, has now received an obvious and satisfactory reply. We cannot discover that she has relinquished any thing, but has gained much; in fact the arrangement is a master-stroke of policy; but admitting a concession to have been made, we cannot admit the embargo to have been instrumental in obtaining it, because the Orders were promulgated under the impression of some such retaliatory measure, and because the operation of it has secured many benefits to those very peculiar interests in Great-Britain, to favour which, the Orders in Council were first promulgated. The embargo came in aid of the West-Indian planter, most effectually.

We are now led to confute the assertion, that but for the opposition of the Federalists, the British would have 'given up the point twelve months ago.' This may be opposed by asking, what point have the British given up? If we are answered, the reparation for the Chesapeak attack, we answer that but for the Federal opposition to the *last* Embargo bill, the French and English would never have been placed upon terms of equality in the non-intercourse law. And it is difficult to imagine that unless the proclamation of the President respecting that outrage had been repealed, or unless France were made equally the aggressor by some publick instrument, Great-Britain could after-

wards offer reparation, in the face of the very instrument, the existence of which had been the only previous obstacle to the adjustment. But if the Federal writers have such wonderful genius as to be able to deter foreign governments from pursuing what their opponents conceive to be the obvious cause of their policy, how will the democrats admit the inference, that they 'have no power nor influence in our national councils?' But the federalists evaded the embargo laws, and thereby prevented its coercive effects. Then the effects have not been so very coercive after all? But will any democratick writer be so bold as unequivocally to declare, that men of *any particular* party were distinguished by evasions of the laws? We know that the Federalists opposed those UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAWS by *constitutional* means; but we undertake to assert that they paid as much real respect and observance to those laws as any set of men in the nation.

TEXT.

The 'federalists,' have had no power nor influence in our national councils for eight years past.' *Chronicle, May* 1, 1809.

COMMENT.

Their exertions (of the federalists) have been solely confined to dogerel paragraph writing; which has been as weak as their cause is despicable; and the *only effect* of which has been *the keeping on the Embargo for the last twelve months.* *Chronicle May* 1, 1089.

These two paragraphs contradict each other; the last proves the assertion contained in the first to be a falsehood; for if the 'federalists have had no influence in our national councils,' how could their writings have had any effect in 'keeping on the embargo?' Surely in so far as relates to their influence on the national government, the writings of the federalists were impotent indeed! And if the embargo policy were persisted in *consequence of such writings*, the conduct of the government must have been the result of *ignorance or spite.* In so far as this conclusion is just, we shall not deny the force of the Chronicle assertion; we have always maintained that the majority in Congress were both *ignorant and vindictive.* The expression above might be thus changed; 'The federalists by their writings maintained such an influence on the national councils, that through spite, and ignorance of the welfare of the country, the government keep on a ruinous embargo for *twelve months longerthan it was required;* (thus far should the Chronicle have proceeded; and we would have added) for which they have justly incurred the determined hatred of all the wise and good men in the community.

DECLPTION.

'They' (the federalists), have even gone so far, as to threaten, that unless the government took off the embargo, declared war against

France, and submission to British tribute and taxation, they would dissolve the union, and *give the northern section to Britain.*'

Chronicle, May 1.

This assertion is plainly and unequivocally made in the Chronicle, and yet the writer talks about the deceptions and lies of the federalists. Such are the weapons with which we are assailed. The cause which can only be supported by misrepresentations so apparent, and falsehoods so glaring, evinces its own inherent corruption.

MISREPRESENTATION.

'So far from the president being now called on to repeal his proclamation before any overtures are made, the whole business is explicitly stated in the first communication and the ground work of all the preliminary articles are offered for the consideration of the government. It seems then, that the late mission carefully avoided the former difficulty; and finding that the spirit of the government would not yield to such humiliating terms as were proposed by Mr. Rose, Mr. Erskine began in the first instance to tell what his majesty would do, before he could expect the president to relinquish our demands or relax in our measures.' *Chronicle, May* 1.

There was no necessity for demanding a repeal of the Proclamation; the non-intercourse formed a virtual repeal. If, according to the democrats, France had committed no outrages as violent as those of the British, surely a law which raised France to the same level of aggression with Great-Britain, is fairly to be considered tantamount to a repeal of the proclamation itself. It contains the very prohibitions against French ships, which the attack on the Chesapeak produced against English ships. We restore the equilibrium as effectually by adding weight to one side of the balance as by diminishing it on the other.

But we had done more, we had made a previous suggestion to Mr. Canning, that if he would repeal the Orders in Council, as far as regarded America, the embargo, as far as regarded England, would be removed. So in the non-intercourse law, the same principle is recognized without any condition relative to the Chesapeak annexed to it. It is provided by the 11th Sec. of that law, that in case, 'either France or England shall so revoke or modify her edicts as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States, 'the President is authorised to declare the same by proclamation; after which the trade may be renewed by the nation so conducting.' The offer in respect to the Chesapeak, was therefore unsolicited, the negociations would have gone on without it, the trade would have been renewed without it, (according to the non-intercourse law, and the proposals made by Mr. Pinckney) so that all the merit which can attach to a candid disavowal and *free and unexpected* reparation for an injury, must be ascribed to the British Govern ment.

As we cannot understand what is meant by the term 'the ground work to all the preliminary articles,' being offered for consideration, we shall not attempt to refute or explain it.

The extract from the non-intercourse law which we have offered, is abundant proof of the falsehood of the assertion, which implies a necessity on the part of Mr. Erskine 'to tell, in the first instance what his majesty would do, before he could expect the president to relinquish our demands or relax in our measures.' The law itself had already 'relaxed our measures,' and we had assumed an *aspect* of equality, which (Great-Britain taking the earliest advantage of it) will probably oblige France to declare war against the United States. So much for the concessions we have obtained from Great-Britain.

THE NEGOCIATION.

AMONG all the clamours of the democratick party in relation to the concessions of Great-Britain; they are perfectly silent in respect to our own. We do not mean to maintain that our government have not done strictly right, in silently submitting to a state of circumstances which they could not control; all we assert is, that our former secretary of state has made many *real* concessions, which are quite as derogatory to our government as the *presumed* concessions on the part of the British. In his letter of instruction to Mr. Munroe, in Jan. 1804, Mr. Madison told the minister that unless our claims to the immunity of the flag in merchant ships were conceded to us even in the narrow seas, the negociation would then '*be at an end.*' The negociation did not end. On the same subject the secretary writes thus, in 1806, 'so indispensable is some adequate provision for the case, that the president makes it a necessary preliminary to any stipulation, requiring a repeal of the non-importation act.' Yet when the British peremptorily refused the admission of such a claim, *President Jefferson directed Mr. Madison* to instruct the minister to suffer 'the negociation to terminate *without any formal compact whatever.*' After this, however, we see negociations about to be renewed, notwithstanding the British proclamation respecting deserters, in which our claims on the subject are forever foreclosed. Concessions, therefore, on the very point which has engaged the best talents of the two governments for more than five years, are now made by us without any noise. The negociation is to be renewed notwithstanding all our threats; and then the great obstacle to an amicable issue, will be the British proclamation. That subject will exhaust a few years more in controversy before we come to a definitive settlement, and then, we venture to predict, we shall allow the British

to search for their own seamen on board our merchant ships; they giving bonds as the last rejected treaty contemplated, that the American sailor shall not be molested.

On the subject of reparation for the Chesapeak attack, we are forcibly instructed in the manner in which concessions have been made from time to time, which we dare say the democrats would wish were forever blotted from the pages of the publick documents.

First, in his letter of April 4, 1808, addressed to Mr. Pinckney, Mr. Madison, after noticing the correspondence of Mr. Rose, and the posture in which the final reply of that minister had placed the question of adjustment, observes, that the reparation should be made in America, 'but the president authorizes you to accept the reparation' *there*, (England) 'provided it be tendered spontaneously, be charged with no condition, unless it be that on the receipt of the act of reparation here, the proclamation of July 2 shall be revoked. Still it is to be understood' (on the subject of the orders in council) 'that whilst the insult offered in the attack on the American frigate remains unexpiated, you are not to pledge or commit your government to consider a recall of the orders as a ground on which a removal of the existing restrictions on the commerce of the United States might be justly expected.' The government made this stand, which seems to have been very cautiously examined; but the post we shall soon see was not tenable. In his letter to Mr. Pinckney of April 30, 1808, only twenty-six days after, Mr. Madison directs him in the event of the orders in council being rescinded, as they applied to the United States, and without any other condition being implied, 'to authorize an expectation that the president will, within a reasonable time, give effect to the authority vested in him on the subject of the embargo laws.' Lest any doubt should remain as to the phrase 'authorize an expectation,' the secretary speaks of such 'a course being taken by the British government as will render a suspension of the embargo *certain* or probable.' Here then was an authority to restore our intercourse with Great-Britain, without reference to the Chesapeak insult, which was included in his letter of July 18, 1808, in the term, 'other salutary adjustments.' Mr. Pinckney, accordingly, did on the 23d of August offer to Mr. Canning on behalf of the American government, 'to suspend the embargo law and its supplements, as regarded Great-Britain, in case that nation repealed her orders.' He said he was authorized 'to give this assurance in the most formal manner.' It was at this time that the advocates of the embargo in America began to doubt of its efficacy in coercing Great-Britain, and Mr. Canning's reply, Sept. 23, to the proposal of Mr. Pinckney, completely satisfied them of the propriety of their doubts. After regretting the unfortunate operation of the orders in council, and stating the question relating to that measure, Mr. Canning proceeds respecting the embargo; 'his majesty sees nothing, in the embargo laid on by the president of the

United States of America, which varies the original and simple state of the question.' He continues, 'his majesty does not conceive that he has any right or pretension to make any complaint of it, and he has made none. But in this light' (as a municipal regulation, in which Mr. Pinckney had considered it all along) 'there appears not only no reciprocity but no assignable relation between the repeal by the United States, of a measure of voluntary self-restriction, and the surrender by his majesty of his right of retaliation against his enemies.'

We talk of receiving concessions, when we have made those of the greatest importance ourselves; we say that Great-Britain is at our feet, but we may hereafter find ourselves egregiously mistaken.

We are told we have gained much, but we cannot discover that we have gained anything. The great topicks of controversy, have been the colonial trade, and the immunity of the flag; we should be glad to know what advantages we have obtained, or are likely to obtain upon these subjects. Or in what respects has Great-Britain relinquished the most minute commercial advantage to this country? She has not relinquished one. Her claims in respect to the colonial trade, are manifestly unjust; but we have not obtained any relief on this subject. Why then are the exultations of the democrats so very high toned, when we are in no respect better situated than we might have been a year ago, if we had adopted the federal policy?

THE CHRONICLE.

WE are rapt in frequent astonishment at the profundity of the editorial remarks in the Chronicle. The general principles of politicks and the laws of nations or of truth are to be sure very seldom regarded, they are viewed with dignified disdain, and if ever approached, are kept at a convenient distance; but yet the observations are in themselves so original, and hurry the mind along in so copious a current of imagination, that though you often cannot grant a ready assent to the reasoning, the conclusions which result are certainly irresistible. We shall offer from the Chronicle of Thursday, some examples of the style, intelligence and profound thinking to which we have alluded.—There is one paragraph which is couched in the following manner:

'The reconciliation between the United States and England is an act which appears to please all parties; the first thing of the kind which has occurred for a great while, and is certainly very honourable for the administration.'

Common readers perhaps will not so readily observe the art with which this sentence is constructed. Instead of declaring it 'an act which pleases all parties,' the author was determined not to commit himself, so he qualifies it thus, '*appears* to please all parties;' it may

be, says he to himself, that we hereafter may become dissatisfied with the arrangement, and this opinion will be cast in our teeth. The writer proceeds: 'the first *thing of the kind* which has occurred for a great while.' This must be generally admitted to be profound. What *thing of the kind* does the writer mean? Why the reconciliation. The reconciliation then, is a thing of some kind, but what that kind is, must be discovered in some other part of the paper. It is a something which has before occurred, but that happened a *great while* ago; therefore, the something which 'occurred a great while ago' is the *thing*, of which the present reconciliation is a *kind*.

Another instance of profound remark is to be discovered in a communication signed *South Abington*, in which the writer, after mentioning that the federalists by 'their exertions of sophistry and misrepresentations have elected' Mr. Gore as chief magistrate of Massachusetts, makes this declaration; 'by similar means they have succeeded in the election of a Lieutenant Governour and Senators, a majority of whom will undoubtedly second any motion that shall be originated by his excellency to increase their popularity and heighten the prosperity and happiness of their constituents.' It would undoubtedly be singular indeed, that *any* motion should be *originated* by his Excellency in the Senate of Massachusetts, where he has no power or legal authority; but it is much more singular that a majority of this very Senate should have it advanced as a charge against them, that they would 'second any motion' which shall be originated 'to heighten the prosperity and happiness of their constituents.' Does the writer mean to infer that a democratick majority would *destroy or diminish* that 'prosperity and happiness?'

The same writer remarks that the federalists have 'accused the government of partiality towards the belligerent powers.' We never heard of their partiality to more than *one* of the belligerent powers; where the other partiality is to be found, remains to be decided by this writer; yet he proceeds to declare that 'all of which observations have been proclaimed and reproclaimed in most if not all the federal prints from Maine to Georgia.' Now, though we should defy them to produce these federal papers, where 'this partiality to the belligerent powers' has been thus 'proclaimed and reproclaimed,' yet we have no doubt they would shelter themselves under the impenetrable shield of profundity and incomprehensibility, to which we have just alluded.

MUSICK.

THE peculiar characteristicks of this science are many, and foreign authors have vied with each other in producing sounds and effects the most striking; we cannot however avoid passing encomiums upon real merit whether assisted by nature or art.

The Irish muse has been particularly successful in affording a peculiar wildness in notes, tones and transitions: if excellence of composition is estimated by the effect on the mind, or its influence over the heart, the Irish melodies graduate to a high degree. Carolan was wonderfully happy in his effusions; great conception, exquisite feeling, and his flights of fancy combined with his genius, will ever entitle him to that celebrity which his countrymen have universally bestowed.—He was an itinerant bard of much eminence, and considered as the Anacreon of his country; his 'Smee Shum Lourther an noig Whnee Planaty Power,' or 'Leave me not Love,' and 'Mas think no Shlaun la Warlagh me,' or 'Oh let me hush thy tender fears,' are two Airs that in their native country 'spread the light of song over the gloom of unillumined ignorance,' and in their tendency soften the ferocity of uncivilized heroism. The musick and poetry of the Irish are analagous, and their sounds faithfully echo their sense; the difficulty of attempting English translations to Irish melodies is universally acknowledged, but the success which Mr. Hewitt has met with, in endeavouring to harmonize several favourite airs from the Irish bard, deserves not only commendation, but entitles him to the respect of every amateur in the science of musick. The facility with which he has arranged the wildness of the melodies of the Bards of Erin, seem to have been executed with a degree of taste and elegance rarely to be met with in this, and seldom in the European world.

The lovers of musick anxiously expect the return of this gentleman to this metropolis, in the ensuing autumn, that they may be afforded an opportunity of bestowing upon real merit its due reward.'

LITERARY NOTICES.

JOHNSON'S WORKS.

Messrs. Oliver C. Greenleaf and Edward Cotton intend to publish the works of Doctor Johnson, in eight octavo volumes; they will issue proposals immediately.

The works of Johnson are a necessary appendage to the library of every English gentleman and scholar; and it is rather singular that they have never until now been offered for publication in the United States. The Rambler, the Lives of the Poets, and the Notes on Shakespeare, have indeed been severally published in this country; but to the admirers of the great moralist, it seems necessary to preserve all his writings in a body, that they may be unfolded at one view. The writings of Doctor Johnson are marked by an original cast both in thought and expression, which have distinguished him, as one of the most extraordinary men which his age or country has produced. The

researches of his industry were no less remarkable than the perspicuity of his intellect. Doctor Johnson was at one time the boast of every literary man in England; and to have produced him, was considered almost as much an honour to his counrry, as that conferred by the talents of Shakespeare and Milton. If they were the greatest English poets, he was the greatest English critick, that had ever existed.

The works of such a man must surely command the attention of every reader. We are therefore highly gratified in contemplating the prospect which this publication unfolds.

THE LIFE OF MRS. ELIZABETH CARTER, is now in the press, and will shortly be published by O. C. Greenleaf, in one large octavo volume. To the scholar, and even to the general reader, the life of the pious author of the translator of Epictetus will be equally interesting and instructive. The circumstances by which it was distinguished are not very remarkable, but they derive peculiar interest from the importance of the subject and the manner in which they are recorded. The letters of our authoress, with which it is occasionally interspersed, afford a forcible example of true epistolary style, whilst they indicate the strength of her mind and excellence of her character.

THE STAGE.

PANTOMIME AND MELO-DRAME.

OF all the perversions of taste, whether it be considered in relation to poetry, eloquence, painting, architecture, the stage, or any other object of that faculty, we cannot call to mind any more striking absurdity than that passion for extravagant show, and nonsensical pantomimick exhibitions which are the fashion of the times. It is said of theatrical exhibitions that they excite sympathy by a certain selfish illusion of the imagination, which places us for a time in the situation of the object of our sympathy. We experience, though in a less degree, the same kind of emotion which a real exhibition of events would produce. But in the monsters of the Pantomime and Melo-Drame, there can be no laudable pleasure, nor true feelings excited; they gratify our baser thoughts, and please our distempered fancies. They please as the stories of hobgoblins please children, or the stories of modern novelists love-sick girls; but surely afford the reason no rational delight.—Churchill is very happy in the Rosciad, in describing the absurdities of Pantomime; the more monstrous *Melo-Drame* was not then in being.

'Harlequin comes, their chief! see from afar,
The hero seated in fantastick car;
Wedded to novelty, his only arms
Are wooden swords, wands, talismans, and charms;

On one side folly sits, by some call'd fun,
And on the other, his arch patron Lun.
Behind, for Liberty a thirſt in vain,
Sense, helpless captive, drags the galling chain.
Six rude mis-shapen beasts the chariot draw,
Whom reason loathes, and nature never saw;
Monsters with tails of ice, and heads of fire!
Gorgons, and hydras, and chimeras dire.
Each was bestrode by full as monstrous weight,
Giant, dwarf, Genius, Elf, Hermaphrodite.
The town, as usual, met him in full cry:
The town, as usual, knew no reason why.
But fashion so directs, and moderns raise
On fashion's mould'ring base, their transient praise.'

Among the Pantomimes which the managers of the Boston Theatre have 'got up' this season, none has a more deserving claim to the admiration of the full grown children of the metropolis, than THE BRAZEN MASK. Excepting the Melo-Drame of THE PILGRIMS, we do not recollect to have ever witnessed a more splendid spectacle of nonsense and foolery. Those who have not seen this 'grand, heroick, serious Pantomime,' may perhaps thank us for some information respecting it. Be it known then, that the plot of the piece is not communicated to the spectator in the customary manner by action, look and gesture; but by a more 'miraculous organ' than any of those usually denominated 'organs of sense.' The various, passions, ideas, &c. of the *dramatis personæ*, are conveyed to the spectators by means of a huge label, dangling from a pole, and brought on by some lubberly supernumerary. On those labels are painted, in large capitals, whatever the actors mean to express, or the incident which is then taking place. There are indeed two or three instances in which this ingenious method of conveying information is dispensed with; and in all these cases, the actions and looks of the performers, though very comical and pathetick, are utterly inexplicable. It would certainly be an improvement to have all, which the personages are supposed to say, painted on the brazen masks worn by the greatest part of them. Perhaps it would be some objection to this method, that their speeches would all appear to the spectators at one view; but this might be obviated by the actor's pointing to one or the other as circumstances required. 'Correct books of the plot, incidents,' &c. are sold at the box-office; but notwithstanding all this, the reason why the Baron should desert his castle and domains, and become the leader of a banditti, still remains an inscrutable mystery.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

IN our next Number we shall commence the publication of the celebrated German play from the Anti-Jacobin, which we shall occasionally accompany by Notes illustrative of the original dramas, which it is intended to ridicule. "THE ROVERS, or DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT," is said to be the production of Lord Grenville, and admirably exposes the system of German composition, and even of the Melo-Drame, a species of writing infinitely more ridiculous. The following is the

PLOT.

ROGERO, Son of the late Minister of the COUNT of SAXE WEIMAR, having, while he was at College, fallen desperately in love with MATILDA POTTINGEN, Daughter of his Tutor, Doctor ENGELBURTUS POTTINGEN, Professor of Civil Law, and MATILDA evidently returning his passion, the Doctor, to prevent ill consequences sends his Daughter on a visit to her Aunt, in *Wetteravia*, where she becomes acquainted with CASIMER, a Polish Officer, who happens to be quartered near her Aunt's; and has several Children by him.

RODERIC, COUNT of SAXE WEIMAR, a Prince of tyrannical and licentious disposition, has for his Prime Minister and favourite, GASPAR, a crafty villain, who had risen to his Post by first ruining, and then putting to death ROGERO's father—GASPAR, apprehensive of the power and popularity which the young ROGERO may enjoy at his return to Court, seizes the occasion of his intrigue with MATILDA (of which he is apprized officially by Doctor POTTINGEN) to procure from his Master an order for the recall of ROGERO from College, and for committing him to the care of the PRIOR of the *Abbey* of *Quedlinburgh*, a Priest, rapacious, savage, and sensual, and devoted to GASPAR's interests—sending at the same time private orders to the Prior to confine him in a Dungeon.

Here ROGERO languishes many years. His daily sustenance is administered to him through a grated opening at the top of a Cavern, by the *Landlady* of the *Golden Eagle* at WEIMAR, with whom GASPAR contracts, in the Prince's name, for his support; intending, and more than once endeavouring, to corrupt the Waiter to mingle poison with the food, in order that he may get rid of ROGERO for ever.

In the mean time CASIMER, having been called away from the neighborhood of MATILDA's residence to other quarters, becomes enamoured of, and marries CECILIA, by whom he has a family, and whom he likewise deserts after a few years co-habitation, on pretence of business which calls him to *Kamschatka*.

Doctor POTTINGEN, now grown old and infirm, and feeling the want of his Daughter's society, sends young POTTINGEN in search of her, with strict injunctions not to return without her; and to bring with her either her present lover CASIMERE, or, should that not be possible, ROGERO himself, if he can find him; the Doctor having set his heart upon seeing his Children comfortably settled before his death. MATILDA, about the same period,

quits her Aunt's in search of CASIMERE; and CECILIA having been advertised (by an anonymous letter), of the falsehood of his *Kamschatka* journey, sets out in a post-waggon on a similar pursuit.

It is at this point of time that the Play opens—with the accidental meeting of CECILIA and MATILDA at the Inn at WEIMAR. CASIMERE arrives there soon after, and falls in first with MATILDA, and then with CECILIA. Successive *eclaircissements* take place, and an arrangement is finally made, by which the two Ladies are to live jointly with CASIMERE.

Young POTTINGEN, wearied with a few weeks search, during which he has not been able to find either of the objects of it, resolves to stop at WEIMAR, and wait events there. It so happens that he takes up his lodgings in the same house with PUDDINCRANTZ and BEEFINSTERN, two English Noblemen, whom the tyranny of KING JOHN has obliged to fly from their Country; and who, after wandering about the Continent for some time, have fixed their residence at WEIMAR.

The News of the Signature of MAGNA CHARTA arriving, determines PUDDINCRANTZ and BEEFINSTERN to return to *England*. Young POTTINGEN opens his case to them, and entreats them to stay to assist him in the object of his search.—This they refuse; but coming to the Inn where they are to set off for *Hamburgh*, they meet CASIMERE, from whom they had both received many civilities in *Poland*.

CASIMERE, by this time, tired of his "DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT," and having learnt from the Waiter, that ROGERO is confined in the Vaults of the neighbouring Abbey *for love*, resolves to attempt his rescue, and to make over MATILDA to him as the price of his deliverance. He communicates his scheme to PUDDINGFIELD and BEEFINGTON, who agree to assist him; as also does Young POTTINGEN. The WAITER of the Inn proving to be a *Knight Templar* in disguise, is appointed Leader of the Expedition. A Band of TROUBADOURS, who happen to be returning from the CRUSADES, and a Company of Austrian and Prussian Grenadiers returning from the SEVEN YEARS WAR, are engaged as Troops.

The attack on the Abbey is made with great success. The Count of WEIMAR and GASPAR, who are feasting with the PRIOR, are seized and beheaded in the Refectory. The PRIOR is thrown into the Dungeon, from which ROGERO is rescued. MATILDA and CECILIA rush in, the former recognizes ROGERO and agrees to live with him. The Children are produced on all sides—and Young POTTINGEN is commissioned to write to his Father, the DOCTOR, to detail the joyful events which have taken place, and to invite him to WEIMAR to partake of the general felicity.